



Re: questions regarding Docket No . FD 30186, Tongue River Railroad Company,

Danielle Gosselin to: Rachel Wilson, Liz Stanton

07/20/2015 12:03 PM

Cc: "BlodgettK@stb.dot.gov"

Hi Rachel & Liz,

Thanks for your inquiry. I have attached your list and our corresponding references to where you can find the information you requested in the Draft EIS, including its Appendices. If you have any questions or comments on the modeling/analysis contained in the Draft EIS, please submit them by the August 24th comment due date and we will respond to your comments in the Final EIS.



Missing modeling assumptions and output 072015.docx

Best,
Danielle

Danielle Gosselin
Attorney Advisor
Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
Tel: (202) 245-0300

Rachel Wilson

Hi Danielle, We're essentially looking for the inp...

07/14/2015 03:46:23 PM

From: Rachel Wilson <rwilson@synapse-energy.com>
To: Liz Stanton <eastanton@synapse-energy.com>, "Danielle.Gosselin@stb.dot.gov" <Danielle.Gosselin@stb.dot.gov>
Cc: "BlodgettK@stb.dot.gov" <BlodgettK@stb.dot.gov>
Date: 07/14/2015 03:46 PM
Subject: Re: questions regarding Docket No. FD 30186, Tongue River Railroad Company,

Hi Danielle,

We're essentially looking for the input and output files from ICF's IPM modeling that is described in Chapter 5 of Appendix C of the DEIS, as well as any workbooks and work papers used by ICF that were used to generate the input assumptions that went into the model, or analyze the output results.

I'm happy to schedule a call at your convenience, just let me know what time works best for you.

Thanks!
Rachel

From: Liz Stanton
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2015 10:27 AM
To: Danielle.Gosselin@stb.dot.gov
Cc: BlodgettK@stb.dot.gov; Rachel Wilson
Subject: RE: questions regarding Docket No. FD 30186, Tongue River Railroad Company,

Thanks, Danielle!

I'm cc'ing my colleague Rachel Wilson who prepared the attached list of missing modeling assumptions and outputs.

I think it might be helpful for you to have a call with Rachel to discuss.

Liz

-----Original Message-----

From: Danielle.Gosselin@stb.dot.gov [mailto:Danielle.Gosselin@stb.dot.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2015 10:24 AM

To: Liz Stanton

Cc: BlodgettK@stb.dot.gov

Subject: Re: questions regarding Docket No. FD 30186, Tongue River Railroad Company,

Hi Liz,

We would be happy to help you locate information in the document that you are unable to find. What exactly are you looking for?

Thanks,
Danielle

Danielle Gosselin
Attorney Advisor
Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
Tel: (202) 245-0300

From: Liz Stanton <eastanton@synapse-energy.com>

To: "BlodgettK@stb.dot.gov" <BlodgettK@stb.dot.gov>,
"GosselinD@stb.dot.gov" <GosselinD@stb.dot.gov>

Date: 07/10/2015 03:21 PM

Subject: questions regarding Docket No. FD 30186, Tongue River Railroad Company,

Hi Ken and Danielle,

The Draft EIS for Docket No. FD 30186, Tongue River Railroad Company names the two of you as the STB staff to contact with questions.

I have been engaged to analyze the Draft EIS and have technical questions, specifically regarding assumptions to the ICF analysis that I have not been able to locate in the appendices. What is the best way for me to gain access to a more complete set of assumptions? If helpful, I can send you a detailed list of the data points that have not been able to find.

Thanks!
Liz

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Inputs

Outputs

1. Electric demand
 - a. Forecasted electric demand - [See Appendix C, Section Table 5-7, See chapter 11](#)
 - b. Forecasted energy efficiency – [Electrical energy demand is net of energy efficiency](#)
 - c. Forecasted demand response – [Peak demand is net of demand response](#)
2. Fuel price forecasts
 - a. Coal
 - i. Reference case – [See Appendix C, Chapter 6, pages C.6-1 to C.6-43, See Section 5.4, Sections 5.4.2.2, Figure 5-5, See Chapter 8, pages C.8-1 to C.8-50, Chapter 9, pages C.9-1 to C.9-69, See Section 5.4.2.4, See chapter 2 pages C.2-1 to C.2-22, Chapter 3 and Chapter 4, Section 1.2.6](#)
 - ii. Any sensitivity cases – [See Appendix C, Chapter 7; see also pages C.7-17 to C.7-18 , See Chapter 8 pages C.8-1 to C.8-50, see Section 8.5, See Sections 8.7, and 8.8](#)
 - b. Natural gas – [Appendix C, Section 5.4.4, Section 5.4.4.1-Section 5.4.4.6](#)
 - i. Reference case – [See Appendix C, pages C.7-12 to C.7 – 17, See Section 5.3.1.3](#)
 - ii. Any sensitivity cases - [Appendix C, Chapter 7, pages C.7-1 to C.7 – 18, Section 8.6.1 pages C.8-44 C.8-46, Section 1.2.6](#)
3. Emission price forecasts
 - a. CO₂
 - i. Reference case – [See Section 5.4.3, 5.4.3.2, Section 2.5, See Chapter 10](#)
 - ii. Any sensitivity cases - [Appendix C, Chapter 7, pages C.7-1 to C.7 – 18, See Section 7.4, See Chapter 8, Section 8.6.2 , Section 1.2.9, Section 1.2.6](#)
 - b. Other emissions –
 - i. Reference case - [See Appendix C, See Chapter 10, see Section 5.3.2 pages C.5-10 to -C.5-12, see Chapter 11, See Section 11.10, Section 2.5, See Chapter 7 See Section 1.2.9](#)
 - ii. Any sensitivity cases – [see above](#)
4. Environmental regulations –
 - a. How do coal plants comply with regulations on coal combustion residuals? [See Chapter 5, Sections 5.3.2, 5.4.3, See Chapter 10, Chapter 11, See Chapter 10](#)
5. Assumptions for new generating capacity –
 - a. Costs of new generating capacity - [See section 5.3.3, See Chapter 11, See Figure 5-1, Section 1.1.2](#)

- b. Page C.5-20 seems to indicate that the only renewable IPM can build is wind. Is this true? [No. Multiple wind, solar, geothermal, landfill gas options provided.](#)
 - c. Capacity credit given for renewable generation, by region and year - [See section 5.3.3, See Chapter 11, See Figure 5-1, Section 1.1.2](#)
 - d. Can IPM build renewables above RPS requirements? [Yes.](#)
 - e. Resulting volume of new generating capacity built, by prime mover and year - [See section 5.3.3, See Chapter 11, See Figure 5-1, Section 1.1.2](#)
- 6. Assumptions about power plant operations –
 - a. Generation, by prime mover and year - [See Appendix C, Chapter 5, Section 5.4.3, See Chapter 11, Section 11.5](#)
 - b. Resulting wholesale power prices, by region and year - [See Appendix C, Chapter 5, Section 5.4.3, See Chapter 11, Section 11.5](#)
 - c. Fuel consumption, by fuel type and year - [See Appendix C, Chapter 5, Section 5.4.3, See Chapter 11, Section 11.5](#)
 - d. Emissions output, by pollutant and year - [See Chapter 10](#)
 - e. Compliance with environmental regulations - [See Chapter 5, Sections 5.3.2, 5.4.3, See Chapter 10, Chapter 11](#)
 - i. How do plants comply? [That is not information that OEA had to rely upon for the analysis.](#)
 - ii. Which plants fuel switch? [That level of data was too voluminous to include in Appendix C.](#)
 - iii. Which plants install emissions controls? [That level of data was too voluminous to include in Appendix C.](#)
 - 1. Which controls are installed?
 - a. Resulting heat rate changes
 - b. Energy penalty due to parasitic load
 - iv. Which plants purchase allowances? [That level of data was too voluminous to include in Appendix C.](#)
 - v. Which plants retire? [That level of data was too voluminous to include in Appendix C.](#)
 - f. Capacity factors of operating power plants - [See Appendix C, Chapter 5, Section 5.4.3, See Chapter 11, Section 11.5](#)
- 7. Assumptions about transmission –
 - a. Timing and location of new transmission lines - [See Appendix C, Page C.5-13, Section 5.2.2.2, Chapter 11, Section 11.5](#)
 - b. Transmission flows on existing lines - [See Appendix C, Page C.5-13, Section 5.2.2.2, Chapter 11, Section 11.5](#)
 - c. Transmission flows on new lines - [See Appendix C, Page C.5-13, Section 5.2.2.2, Ch 11, Section 11.5](#)

8. Constraints on the IPM model
 - a. What are the constraints imposed on the IPM model? – [See Appendix C, Chapter 5, Chapter 11, See Section 11.5, see Figure 5-1](#)
9. Coal contracts –
 - a. How are coal contracts at existing plants considered in IPM? [See Chapter 5, Section 5.3, and Chapter 6](#)
10. Coal exports
 - a. Where do assumptions on international coal use come from? – [See Chapter 5, See Appendix C, Chapter 4, Chapter 11, See Chapter 2, See Section 1.1.3](#)
 - i. Historic coal consumption – [See above](#)
 - ii. Expected coal plant construction – [See above](#)
 - iii. Economic growth on a country-by-country basis – [See above](#)
 - b. Does IPM track the destination of US coal exports? – [See Appendix C Chapter 8 pages C.8-1 to C.8-50, see Section 8.4.2 pages C.8-18 to C.8-29, Chapter 9, pages C.9-1 to C.9-69, See Chapter 11, See Section 11.9, See chapter 4 pages C.4-1 to C.4-12](#)
 - c. Provide supply curve results from the CoalDom model – [See Appendix C, Section 5.4.2, Pages C.5-15 to C.5-23, including Section 5.4.2.2, Figure 5-5, See Chapter 6 pages C.6-1 to C.6-43, See Chapter 2 pages C.2-1 to pages C.2-22, See Chapter 11, See Chapter 3 Pages C.3-1 to C.3-35](#)
 - i. Production cost - – [See above](#)
 - ii. Annual production capacity – [See above](#)
 - iii. Coal resource limits – [See above](#)
11. What does IPM assume about an international CO₂ policy? [See Appendix C, Chapter 10, Pages C.10-1 to C.10-35, See Section 5.4.3, 5.4.3.2, Section 2.5, See Chapter 11](#)
12. In the results of the analysis, OEA finds that Tongue River coal displaces other domestic coal. What does IPM predict happens to the displaced coal from other parts of the United States? – [See Appendix C, See Chapter 8, see Section 8.3, Section 8.4, Section 1.2.7](#)